



The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

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Comer H. "Randy" Randall
Chairman

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March 18, 2020

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor:

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating public health and economic effects on our State. The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission"), in recognition of these effects, requests you invoke your emergency powers to temporarily stay S.C. Code Ann. Sections 58-5-240 and 58-27-870, including all deadlines for currently pending matters and for any cases which may be filed during this time. These statutes require the issuance of rate orders in two major water and wastewater sewer cases presently before the Commission as well as other possible impending rate cases. The potential combined financial impact of these rate cases affects citizens all over the state. In this time of unprecedented emergency and dire economic uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the Commission's opinion that ratepayers should not be burdened with any additional concern related to these matters.

Under Section 58-5-240, the six-month deadline may impact customers' rates as soon as April 2, 2020. There are pending water and wastewater rate cases touching thousands of households and businesses spread throughout sixteen (16) counties in the state. Affected territories extend from the Upstate through the Piedmont, Midlands, and the Coast. Additional time is requested to delay the potential impact of these matters. Moreover, the Commission is facing the possibility of prospective rate cases from additional public utilities. Without this stay, the Commission does not have the authority to hold these matters in abeyance past the statutory deadlines.

Understanding that the Governor's emergency powers have time limitations, we are also asking the General Assembly to pass a Joint Resolution which would recognize these same issues and delay the six-month deadline for issuance of Orders under S.C. Code Sections 58-5-240 and 58-27-870. On behalf of the Commission, I ask that the Commission be allowed to delay the implementation of the above referenced statutes and any resulting Order, so that ratepayers will be spared possible economic effects in these troubled times.

Letter, The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor
March 18, 2020
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I, and the other Members of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, thank you in advance for your help and consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,



Comer H. "Randy" Randall
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr., *President of the South Carolina Senate*
The Honorable James H. "Jay" Lucas, *Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives*
The Thomas C. Alexander, *Chairman, State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee & Chairman, Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee*
The Honorable William E. Sandifer, III, *Vice-Chairman, State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee & Chairman, House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee*
The Honorable Luke A. Rankin, Sr., *Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee*
The Honorable C. Bradley Hutto
The Honorable Peter M. McCoy, Jr., *Chairman House Judiciary Committee*
The Honorable David J. Mack, III
The Honorable P. Michael Forrester
Margaret Bluestein, Esquire
Dan Jones
John S. Simmons, Esquire